



For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, November 9, 2016

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*Public Encouraged to Attend:*

## **GEORGIA DOT HOLDS PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSES FOR THE ATLANTA-CHATTANOOGA HIGH SPEED GROUND TRANSPORTATION PROJECT**

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. – The Georgia Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration and the Tennessee Department of Transportation will hold three public information open houses to discuss the proposed Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation project.

The first open house is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2016 from 6 until 8p.m. at the Georgia DOT General Office, located at 600 West Peachtree Street in Atlanta. The second meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16 from 6 until 8 p.m. at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency – Development Resource Center, located at 1250 Market Street # 2000, Chattanooga, TN 37402. A third public information open house is scheduled for Thursday, November 17 from 6 until 8 p.m. at the Dalton City Hall and Administrative Building, located at 300 West Waugh Street, Dalton, GA 30720.

The purpose of these open houses is to provide the public with opportunities to review the recently released Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Tier 1 DEIS) for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation project. Residents of northwest Georgia and east Tennessee interested in learning more about the study are encouraged to attend the meetings and express their thoughts and preferences.

“We would like to hear the viewpoints and concerns of all area residents,” says Dewayne Comer, district engineer at the Georgia DOT office in Cartersville.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) recently reached a major milestone for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation project, which considers high speed passenger service to connect Atlanta, Georgia to Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Tier 1 DEIS presents three corridor alternatives to connect the two cities and a broad evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of each alternative.

“The Georgia DOT strongly believes that since this project is intended to serve the people of east Tennessee and northwest Georgia, the ideas and preferences of these people are important,” Comer explains. “These meetings will provide the public with information about the three alternatives under consideration, high speed ground transportation technologies considered, and the criteria that can be employed to identify a preferred corridor alternative.”

These three open houses will be informal, and the public is invited to attend anytime during these hours. There will be no formal presentations. A court reporter will be available at each open house to allow the public an opportunity to make verbal comments about the project.

The meeting sites are all accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations for people with disabilities can be arranged with advance notice by calling Ariel Heckler at 404-631-1229.

Copies of the project’s environmental document will be available for review at the three open houses and are available to the public at any time by sending a request to:

## PRESS RELEASE

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The environmental document will also be available for review before the dates of the open houses at the project website:  
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Rail/AtlantatoChattanooga>.

*Georgia DOT's mission extends well beyond highways. The Department's Office of InterModal Programs:*

- *Assists in the development of 104 safe, well-maintained public-use airports throughout the state;*
- *Promotes and supports 15 urban and 110 rural public transportation transit programs;*
- *Helps to integrate freight, passenger and commuter rail services on more than 5,000 miles of track in the state, including 540 miles it owns and leases to private operators for rural economic development; and*
- *Works with US Army Corps of Engineers to maintain navigability of ship channels serving ports in Savannah and Brunswick as well as throughout the 137 miles of Intercoastal Waterway in Georgia.*

*For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov). You also may like us on ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest)) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTNW) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>).*

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